

Weekly Views

April 5, 2012

Correctional staff from the Illinois Department of Correction toured the Putnamville Correctional Facility's (PCF) Equine Management program with hopes of modeling the PCF program at one of their facilities. Superintendent Stanley Knight and Equine instructor, Barbara Holcomb, relayed the day to day operations, classroom instruction, care and adoption of the horses. Since inception in 2007, the program has graduated 58 offenders, processed 62 horses, and facilitated 30 adoptions. Two of the horses were adopted by St. Mary of the Woods College for their Equestrian program.

Dr. John Nally, Director of Education, and Dr. Susan Lockwood, Director of Juvenile Education, have been appointed to a five-member national task force regarding the implementation of computer-based GED testing in correctional facilities. Indiana is currently a pilot state for this initiative.

Westville Correctional Facility Superintendent Mark Levenhagen and Major Danny Forker are pleased to announce the promotions of the following custody staff to their new rank: Captain Michael Reeves, Lieutenants Donald Winters and John Creasy, and Sergeants Christina Stobaugh, Timothy Phelps, Darrell Holmes, Refuge Curtis, Daniel Pomeroy, Brandon Jensen, and Alonzo Burris.

A staff awards ceremony was held at the Indiana State Prison. Recognized for years of service were Rollin Pomeroy Jr., Daniel Easton and Eddie Hull for 30 years of service; Christie Scott and Sherry Hatchel for 25 years; and Larry East, Michael Everett, Christopher Prohl, Steven Burkholder, Carl Keller, Matthew Florer, Brandon Scott, Michael Haas and Tamara Baum for 20 years of service. Extra-mile awards were presented to Daniel Easton, Mike Abraham, Brad Cox, Iona Horde, and Robert Roose. Dr. John Frazee, received the Contractual Employee of the Quarter, Mark Hubbard, Employee of the Quarter, Nathaniel Talbot, Officer of the Quarter and Ron Neal, Supervisor of the Quarter. Senator Jim Arnold also made a special visit to congratulate Jerry Lubiniecki on his retirement. Senator Arnold mentioned how he appreciated all employees of state government and thanked them for their dedication, but it was a special honor to present his childhood friend with an award on this special day.

PEN Products Re-entry Job Placement Team members, Doug Evans and Lisa Williams, were presenters at the National Correctional Industries Conference attended by 47 corrections professionals in Sacramento, CA. The presentation, titled "Innovative Re-entry Inside Today's Correctional Industries", focused on four specific areas of re-entry training that offenders are receiving while working in PEN Products industries operations.

Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) Superintendent Keith Butts is pleased to announce that PCF has been recommended for reaccreditation by the American Correctional Association following an auditing by a visiting committee. The facility received 100% on mandatory standards and a 98.6% on non-mandatory standards. Staff Pendleton put in a lot of hard work, time and effort preparing for the accreditation.

Merle Wininger has retired after 19 years of service at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. At a reception held in his honor, Wininger received a plaque, commemorating his outstanding and dedicated service. A handcrafted PLUS "retirement quilt" and an inscribed key were also presented by appreciative staff for nearly two decades of protecting the public.

Please join Superintendent Wendy Knight and the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) in congratulating Captain Larry Taylor on his promotion to Correctional Major. Major Taylor started his career in 1989 as a correctional officer and has since promoted up the ranks working at Miami, Pendleton and most recently as Utility Captain at CIF. Major Taylor brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position.

New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) staff and offenders donated a total of \$1450 for Henryville Correctional Facility staff affected by the recent tornados. 38 toy cars & trucks made by NCCF Building Maintenance and painted by PLUS offenders along with four handmade quilts were also sent to the Henryville Tornado Relief effort.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility PLUS unit held a fundraiser for the victims of the Southern Indiana Tornado disaster. The unit donated \$250 to the Convoy of Hope relief fund. The check was distributed through The First Assembly Of God in Logansport Indiana.

Dr. John Nally, Director of Education and Dr. Susan Lockwood, Director of Juvenile Education, attended the National Correctional Education Association Leadership Forum in Columbia, MD. They presented on their implementation of the "Problem Solving Strategies for Successful Reentry" curriculum in adult and juvenile correctional facilities in Indiana.

Staff at Pendleton held a successful fundraiser to assist the family of PCF Correctional Officer J.C. Jackson. A total of \$377 was raised to offset medical expenses incurred with the birth of Office Jackson's daughter Lily Marie who was born 12 weeks early on December 3, 2011.

At the request of facility Librarian Brad Deal, Director Alice Greenburg and Assistant Director Lynn Tweedy of the Putnam County Public Library spent the day at the Putnamville Correctional Facility auditing the library's educational, recreational and cultural reading materials and services. Deal, will use their recommendations to expand collections and improve services of the program.

Superintendent Knight supported the informal audit stating, "We strive to provide a quality program that meets the needs of the offender population. I commend staff for their initiative."